

"Unlike the losses in a war engaged by the world, those who die in Christ are raised again to new life in Him. And while they may not have medals of honour to recognize their sacrifices, they do receive a crown of glory that is theirs throughout eternity."

~ Anthony Rhodes

VP of International Ministry and Operations

NIGERIA: Almost a Hundred Killed in Fulani Raids

Sources: Mission Network News, World Watch Monitor, Christian Post, Morning Star News

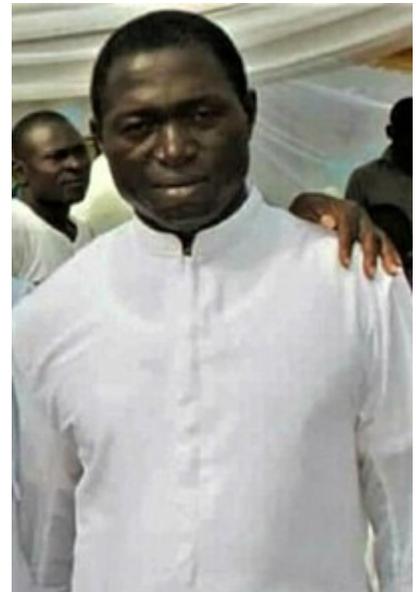
Several recent attacks by Fulani herdsmen in Nigeria's "Middle Belt" have resulted in at least 93 fatalities. The violence against Christians has sparked outrage in Nigeria and throughout the world, calling for more action to curb the ongoing violence and resulting tragic loss.

On April 24th, a mob of gunmen attacked a church in the village of Ayar-Mbalom during an early morning service. Two church leaders and 17 congregants were shot dead. The attack has been condemned by Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari, who calls the attack an effort to exacerbate sectarian divisions and violence.

In previous raids, which took place during the middle of the night, 25 Christians were killed in Anyiin village on April 19th, and a further 10 in Saghev village on April 20th. Numerous homes and businesses owned by Christians were burned to the ground at the time of the attacks.

The largest attack in recent days has resulted in the loss of at least 39 people in three different villages on April 25th, and the burning of 160 homes. All the victims were members of various churches in the communities.

Christians throughout Nigeria have been staging protests, claiming that President Buhari is not doing enough to protect them from the violence. In light of the unabated killings, the Catholic Bishop's Conference of Nigeria is calling for Buhari's resignation. In a face-to-face meeting at the White House on April 30th, U.S. President Trump told President Buhari that something must be done, stressing "we cannot allow" the continuous murder of Christians. It has been noted that Buhari, himself, is the son of a Fulani chief. Reports on previous incidents are [available here](#).



The Rev. Felix Tyolaha, one of the church leaders slain during recent attacks.
Photo: Morning Star News
via Diocese of Makurdi

Please bring the Christians in Nigeria before God's throne of grace. Pray that He will mightily intervene, providing the Nigerian authorities an effective proactive strategy that will help put an end to the violence. Also remember those who have been injured, the families and friends of those killed, and the many other victims who are now struggling to survive without a home or place of business.

Share a Prayer



CHINA: Coming Storm for Chinese Christians

Sources: Release International, The Voice of the Martyrs Canada



Chinese official removing a religious mural from a home.

A leading campaigner has warned of a gathering storm for persecuted Christians in China. Bob Fu, a ministry partner of The Voice of the Martyrs Canada, reports that the persecution of Christians has worsened dramatically under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, and it could get worse now that he has been declared president for life.

While delivering a speech at a recent event in London, England, Mr. Fu warned: "Churches have been totally destroyed under President Xi's rule. There is a new spiritual storm coming to the Chinese church. It may even be worse than during the Cultural Revolution."

Tough new restrictions on religious freedom were enacted on February 1st. As a result, organizing a home prayer meeting has been forbidden and religious messages cannot be shared with anyone under the age of 18. Even in registered churches, cameras

with facial recognition have been installed to monitor who is attending. (A three-minute video report on the situation in China can be [viewed here](#).)

Bob Fu believes that the real reason behind the clampdown is to slow the rapid growth of Christianity in China. When Communism took power in 1949, it was estimated that there were one million Christians. Today that number is more than 100 million. Sociologists estimate that even at the slowest projected rate of growth, Christians will number at least 224 million by 2030.

While we praise God for the ongoing growth of the church in China, please uphold the country's believers – asking Him to strengthen and equip them so they can stand true and faithfully continue ministering despite the new restrictions. May the governmental officials come to realize that their opposition against the Creator of the Universe is ultimately futile (Matthew 16:18).

Share a Prayer



PRAISE REPORT

LAOS: Christian Family Remains in Their Village

Source: VOM USA

A young Christian couple with a toddler son have chosen to stay in their village despite facing persecution, which has caused many other villagers to abandon the Christian faith they once professed. Local authorities destroyed the couple's home in an attempt to drive them out. Instead of leaving, however, these steadfast believers gathered what was left of their home and built a small hut. Church leaders from neighbouring villages came to stay with the couple as a sign of support.

We praise God that the village authorities are now permitting the couple to remain in the community and rebuild their home. Pray that this Christian family will remain strong in their faith, so they can serve as a light for Christ among their animistic neighbours. Also pray that the Lord will speak to the hearts of those who have renounced their Christian faith – bringing them back into right relationship with Him – and for the salvation of their persecutors.



If you would like to post a prayer of praise or petition on behalf of our persecuted family around the globe, visit [VOMC's prayer wall](#).



The Persecution & Prayer Alert is a ministry of:
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For information on additional ways to support members of
the persecuted church overseas, review this [listing of options](#).